

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Monthly Meeting Minutes, Weds October 11, 7:30PM, Selectmen's Hearing Rm, Town Hall

Attending: Ed, Eliza, Eric, John, Mara, Mary Ellen, Susan. Guests: Steve Moore, Rich, Elaine, Karen MacKinnon, and one other.

1. Approve Sept meeting minutes –minutes approved

2. DPW Tree Department Update (Mary Ellen for Tim)

A. Clearing back log of tree management:

1. Marquis Tree is still under contract to help with backlog (pre July 2017) of pruning and removals. To date, 220 total trees have been pruned, 22 left (seven of the trees will require extensive climbing/police detail). 160 total trees to remove, 83 taken down to date. (oldest request on the list was 495 days over due). Cost ~\$150k, from annual budget.
2. Post July 2017 requests are enough to warrant another outside contractor to help catch up – the project will go out for bid during the 12/17- 3/18 (10% off) rate period. (cost ~150k from annual budget)
3. Mt Pleasant Cemetery - backlog of trees to take down, 28 in total (old severely damaged from microburst years ago). Cost ~\$50k. New planting plan will be drawn up, considering focus toward perimeter trees to shade street and walkers.

B. Tree Hearings:

1. Monday, October 23rd, 10AM: 10 – 12 Newland Road. Water dept requesting to remove tree and stump to access water valve now fully encompassed in tree main roots.
2. Tuesday, October 24th, 10AM: 264 Renfrew Street. Enterprises Landscape contacted Warden on behalf of homeowner requesting removal to widen driveway.
3. November, Yet-to-be-advertised. 37 Beverly Road. Homeowner requests removal to plant another tree. (Poss. Date of November 6th). Reasons for removal: safety, appearance, heaving sidewalk. Homeowner was present at meeting.

C. Specific Trees

1. Uncle Sam Park - large oak tree dead and coming down in Oct/early November. Town needs extensive traffic control to remove trunk and stump. Replant this fall with Princeton elm? Or another substantial tree.
2. 40 Webcowet: tree is fenced. Incident week of 10/2 with cement vehicles and removal/replacement of fence for access, both TreeWarden and a tree professional spoke to Town Manager. Tree leaves are gone (early), will need to see if Spring leaves out,

and is able to continue to thrive after winter stores are used up from 2017. Should be able to tell by early July.

- D. Bylaw follow up: (Tim should also look at street trees in vicinity when examining a tree plan).
 - 1. Nine projects have been brought to him and are working in compliance
 - 2. Warden not available to proactively ask building department or search new permits for compliance. (ATC discussed how to help Tim with these projects (e.g some sort of "Bylaw Emergency SWAT Team" – Steve;).
 - 3. Planting after construction – what if it isn't done? Sally's photo of new house at 21 Old Colony Road does not show any new trees planted as was required as part of the bylaw discussions; ATC discussed coming up with some sort of covenant to go with title transfer?? Could you put a lien on people's deeds? Susan to ask Doug Heim.
- E. Construction Guidelines with trees. Tim drafted up a document last month.
 - 1. Curb cut info (attached) handout in Building Dept.
 - 2. Permit handout (attached) from Building Dept now has inserted language: if you are working around a tree, contact town Tree Warden" EXCELLENT step – this is the first piece of paper someone wanting a permit receives

B. Tree Inventory - ATC

- a. Tree Management Plan update – Mara, John, Rob, Tim have been working on the Plan – due in June, not in November. (2 part plan: state of the existing forest, vision statement, history of the land, tree inventory documentation, outline of current tree management, Second part of the Plan is the future; Tim's vision: [First finish backlog of pruning work, then 5 year maintenance cycle;] John will be working with Finance Committee to get the awareness/budget of the maintenance plan. Need to take into consideration Eversource's 4-year pruning plan; how does this dovetail with Arlington's?
- b. Paperwork has been submitted to DCR but John does not have confirmation that funds have been received by the town. He has asked but gotten no response.
- c. Due to time constraint, no date was selected for thank you event for interns and volunteers
- d.

C. Publicity

- a. Watering {Tree Committee Members should go remove old tree gator bags}. {ATC needs to ask the Town for spending money on watering}
Ed will work on this research.
- b. Bylaw article for Advocate (not discussed)
- c. Follow up to suggestions from Town Day (not discussed)
- d. Order more Tshirts (not discussed)

D. New Members

- Vote on New Member – majority vote to recommend Steve to be on the Committee. MEA will send letter of interest to Dan Dunn. Conversation followed to recommend future member interest request: Resume, Reference, Letter of Interest
- Solicit for additional new members – John will work up something for Advocate

E. New Business

- Funds to ATC for education (from 40 Webcowet Road settlement) – Treasurer Office could set up an account - Ed will check on this
- Member resignation – Becky sent a letter of resignation. MEA will submit to Board of Selectmen
- Trees in front of library; subcommittee formed – Not discussed
- Islands throughout town (not discussed)
- Fruit trees at Water Tower (not discussed)
- ABG club watering (not discussed)
- Gas leaks – Susan attended Gas Leaks meeting in Cambridge. Gas leak looking prior to tree planting can be hired – Susan is willing to contact a gas leak contractor.
- ADDED: Motion to pursue changing the fines for state tree removal law? John submitted motion: our \$50/inch is on the low range compared to other Towns, it also doesn't cover cost of tree; Administrative change that DPW could make. Tim could say to DPW: ATC voted and would like to do this. Town changes it's fee per inch from \$50 to \$100 (\$90 Amherst, \$300 Boston). **Motion Passed.**
- ADDED: Correspondence from Sally Naish – 21 Old Colony Rd house, constructed and submitted a tree plan to remove trees – and elected to replant? Or give town money? . On the market now, no new trees planted. Eliza will follow up with Tree Warden
- ADDED: Correspondence regarding EAB – Steve will look into it. MEA will send link to inventory data which shows all ash trees in town
- Website help: Rich Sands offered to help (visitor) = rich.sands@gmail.com

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month, November 8